

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (previously presented) A gemstone having a micro-discrete indicia formed thereon wherein said micro-discrete indicia image was formed using near-field optics, wherein said micro-discrete indicia image has a length no greater than about 10 microns and a height no greater than about 2 microns, said near-field optics resulted in an alter of the color of said gemstone for producing said micro-discrete indicia image.

2. (previously presented) A gemstone according to claim 1 wherein said gemstone has a coating thereon such that when said near-field optics is used to form said micro-discrete indicia image an ablation of the surface of said gemstone occurs.

3. Cancelled

4. (currently amended) A ~~method~~ gemstone according to claim 2 wherein in said micro-discrete indicia is provided at a predetermined coordinates on said gemstone.

5. (original) A gemstone according to claim 2 wherein said micro-discrete indicia provides information with regard to said gemstone.

6. (currently amended) A ~~method~~ gemstone according to claim 5 wherein said information comprises any of the following:  
size, type, manufacturer, retailer, owner, producer, country of origin, mine.